

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Imminence of Hostilities

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report

on the imminence of hostilities.
Matters of priority importance for early warning are dealt with in full detail in this report.

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Attachment

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DATE: 25 July 1957

COUNTRY: Hungary

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1. [redacted] there was a security force (karhatalom) assigned to the Beloinnais Telecommunications Factory (BHG) from November 1956 to March 1957. [redacted]

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[redacted] The mission of this unit was to provide security for the factory. This security force consisted of approximately 50 personnel, composed mostly of former army officers who were armed with conventional sub-machine guns and several unidentified heavy machine guns. The personnel in this unit wore the pre-revolutionary army uniform with the old insignia of the individual's rank. This unit was commanded by Col. Gyula Feher, who was once commander of the Petofi Political Academy in Budapest. [redacted] there were similar

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security forces in all of the major industrial plants in Budapest as well as in other major Hungarian cities.

2. [redacted] there was an unidentified Soviet armored unit located at Alag (N 46-48, E 18-41). [redacted] unknown number of Soviet infantry and armor troops in Budapest. the Soviet forces which occupied Budapest in the latter stages of the revolution were exceptionally well armed and were equipped with new-looking weapons. Among these weapons were an unidentified tank, which weighed about 80 tons; an unidentified gun of approximately 160-millimeter caliber was mounted on the tank. [redacted] new models of sub-machine guns and heavy machine guns(sic), which were mounted on small carts. [redacted] unknown number of new-type portable radios. [redacted]
3. [redacted] radio jamming station located on Szabadsag Hill in Budapest. This station was operated by the air force and was remote-controlled from an operations center located on Gellert Hill (Gellert Hegy Szikla Kozpont). The equipment used in the station was a simple Soviet-type FM set. [redacted] another jamming station [redacted] was located on Harasz Hatar Hill in Budapest. This station, which was generally known as a radio jamming station, was operated by AVH personnel. [redacted] this station had the same type of equipment as the Szabadsag Hill station.
4. In September or October 1956 [redacted] two antiaircraft gun positions, one of which was located on Szabadsag Hill in Budapest. This position had six or eight unidentified 85-millimeter antiaircraft guns in position. The other gun position was located on Rozsa Hill in Budapest, and it comprised eight unidentified 85-millimeter antiaircraft guns in position.
5. [redacted] all intelligence activities were controlled and directed by KATPOL (Katonai Politikai Csoport Fozokseg - Military Political Group Directorate), which was headed by Major General Gyula REVESZ.
6. There were several instances of sudden increases in numbers of people arrested by the Security Police after the revolution. About 10 December 1956, high standing members of workers' councils were arrested in all factories located in Budapest and in other industrial cities, such as Miskolc (N 48-06, E 20-47). In Budapest, about 30 similar high-standing labor leaders were arrested. They were accused of participating in organized resistance against the regime and of supplying military information to Western powers during and after the revolution. [redacted] These individuals were imprisoned in the FO

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Street military prison. In early January 1957, a second wave of arrests occurred, involving mostly newspapermen, reporters, and university students who were writing and publishing the underground newspaper Elunk (We Live). A third series of arrests took place at the end of January and beginning of February 1957, when leaders and members of workers' councils were arrested.

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7. Travel to the West was restricted after the revolution and several control points were established at railroad stations and at important highway crossings. Forbidden zones were established near the border areas. For example, at the Hungarian-Yugoslav border, the forbidden zone was 20 kilometers wide. Special police permits were required to enter such forbidden zones. However, there was little or no increase in document checks. During the end of March 1957, a curfew between the hours of 0001 and 0500 was established in all of Hungary. Everyone had to be off the streets during that period.
8. From the beginning of March 1957, young workers in all Hungarian factories were recruited for the Security forces to form the so-called "Worker Guards". They were armed with Soviet-type sub-machine guns, pistols, and hand grenades. Recruitment was on a voluntary basis and the selection standards were high

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they might have received some extra pay and, because of training schedules, had their factory workload reduced. About 15 March 1957, pictures of the first "Worker Guards" units appeared in Hungarian newspapers. The reaction of the Hungarian people was one of "hatred", because the worker guards reminded the Hungarians of the AVO, not so much because of their uniform but because of the expression on their faces.

9. Generally, there were no shortages of essential goods, but there was a decrease in quality and an increase in price. Food, clothing, and household implements were available, but the quality was extremely poor and the price very high. Immediately after the revolution, people bought up luxury goods in large quantities as a form of investment. There was a subsequent shortage of luxury goods; especially critical shortage of bicycles. Drugs were not affected, since they had never been readily available before the revolution. no rationing.

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10. Wages generally decreased after the revolution. Just before and during the revolution, the norms system was abolished and an increase in wages occurred. However, during the period December 1956 to January 1957, the former norms were restored under an even more severe form. As a result, workers earned less than before the revolution. Technical personnel and clerks, until recently, received their salary in two parts: (a) a fixed monthly amount and, (b) a premium which was paid about every three months. Originally, the premium represented compensation for extra work, but later, it became a standard supplementary payment. Recently, however, the Hungarian Government decided that this method of

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paying technical personnel and clerks was improper. The Government decided, therefore, to raise the basic wage by a small fixed amount which represented less than the former premiums; concurrently, the government made the conditions for earning the premiums more severe. The end result was a five percent decrease in the salary of technical personnel and clerks.

11. Censorship of civilian mail started after the revolution. Letters coming from the West were spot-censored. [redacted]

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12. Before the revolution, the BHG factory and other Budapest factories were planning extensive additions to their plants, as well as construction of new ones. These plans were cancelled after the revolution. [redacted] no actual construction projects which were interrupted before completion.

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13. Since end November 1956, it has been rumored that Minister President Kadar is "half mad". [redacted]

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14. [redacted] there were no restrictions on weather broadcasts.

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